

THE PICTURE.
A little lady, a very young knight—
Just a girl and a boy in each other's sight—
Oh, their smiling faces were clear and bright,
Their voices and smiles with gems so bright
Gleamed and shone and pearls had shone,
And he was superb as a king could be,
His cheeks were rosy, his heart was light,
As they danced them a measure on Christmas
night.
"Twas, 'Ah, my lady!' and 'Ye, my lord!'
And he touched as lightly his jeweled sword
As if it were a flower, 'Ye, my lord, with you,
The trick of the weapon that docketed his side.
And she, with the very sweep of her gown,
Tore him to pieces and then she was gone,
From sire to son, through court and town,
The same she bore had been handed down.
And what was her name? And who was the boy?
I do not know, and I hardly care.
Their story is neither here nor there,
For girls and boys, young, merry and fair,
Gladly our friends everywhere,
They thrive and flourish today as then—
The little ladies, the little men.
And, grand or humble, their hearts are light
When they tread them a measure on Christmas
night.
—Mary Mason Dodge in St. Nicholas.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.
—A Weir Gilkeson was in Harrisburg for several days this week.
—There is a letter at the Bristol Post-office addressed to slipshodman, Bristol, Pa.
—During the rain storm on Monday night there was considerable thunder and lightning.
—Miss Ella Mathias, of Bristol, spent Sunday and Monday with her mother at Chalfont.
—Mrs. Frank Rehn, of Collingdale, Delaware, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. Mack Green.
—On Mt. Thorne has been rented his property on Mill street, near the post-office, to J. Curtis Howell.
—On account of the illness of Major McKinley during the past week business has been very dull.
—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wright, of Washington, D.C., are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth W. Groom.
—Miss Helen Scott and Miss Anna H. Runyan are visiting Miss Alexzoe Solomon at Riverton, N.J.
—The post-office, Bank and Public Library, with all the schools in town, observed Washington's Birthday.
—Miss Lydia Edwards, of Harrisburg, was the guest of Miss Ethel Gilkeson several days during the past week.
—Rev. James Harrison was installed as pastor of the Langhorne Presbyterian Church on Friday evening last week.
—The title "Mother Goose Concert," given by the Presbyterians last week, netted them between 40 and 50 dollars.
—A lecture on "Australia" will be Friday evening in the Presbyterian Church at Langhorne.
—The people about Halmerville are to be invited to a boxing bout on Saturday evening under the management of John A. Kelly, of Bristol.
—The property on Adelaide street, above Durman, belonging to Immo Ivins' estate, for the sum of \$4500.
—A J. Hibbs has sold the property formerly owned by F. H. Burke on the corner of Durman and Wood streets to Mrs. Enoch M. Eldridge for \$2400.
—Joseph R. Grunly attended the annual dinner of the Swarthmore Club at the Hotel Bellevue on last Saturday evening and responded to the toast "Duties."
—Sylvester Scovell, the New York correspondent, who is now a prisoner in Cuba, is a nephew of Rev. Dr. E. P. Shields, pastor of Bristol Presbyterian Church.
—The Ladies Aid Society of Bethlehem A. M. E. Church gives a three evening entertainment this week beginning with "Tom Thumb's Wedding" on Thursday evening.
—There are still more removals in Bristol business quarters to be removed. S. I. Whitaker is going to move from the corner of Durman and Wood streets to the corner of Bath and Buckley streets.
—List of letters remaining in Bristol post-office, February 25th, 1897: August Hittman, George Herrmann, Philip August Metzger, Elizabeth Williams, Miss Mary Zenger, Lake street; Ezekiel C. Steyvers.
—The second of the series of sermons on "The Work of the Holy Spirit" will be preached at the Baptist Church on next Sunday evening. Subject: "The Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life and Work of the Christians."
—A well is being driven fifty or a hundred feet to obtain pure water for making into ice by the new ice manufacturing company. The plant is expected to be completed and ready to deliver the manufactured article by the middle of April.
—The two societies of St. Paul's Mission—the Boys' Friendly and the Girls' Friendly—celebrated Washington's Birthday by an entertainment in the mission house at 7.30 p. m. A programme was rendered, and afterwards a "Dutch Treat" to all.
—The entertainment to be given at Pythian Hall this evening, for the benefit of H. Clay Beatty Post, G. A. R., is in the nature of a panoramic exhibition of the capture of Anderson Raid during the time of the war of the rebellion, when a handful of soldiers captured a railroad train. The engineer of the train, Mr. W. J. Knight, will describe the scenes presented upon the canvas.
—Spring is fast approaching and it will soon be time to get the bicycle roads and paths around Bristol into shape for this summer's riding. The experimental rider leading from the Hollow Bridge to Landreth's lane, is still in the experimental stage. It needs a top dressing of clay or something to make the riders pack, and also needs to be leveled up. There are at present too many humps in the path to enjoy riding upon it.
—A dramatic entertainment will be given at St. Paul's mission on next Tuesday evening for the benefit of the Mission. The play will be a light social comedy entitled "A Chaffing Dish Party," which will be rendered by the following excellent amateur talent: Mr. and Mrs. Weir Gilkeson, Francis Fenimore, William V. Leach, William C. Peirce, Miss Bosworth, and Miss Beatty. The music will be furnished by Miss M. A. Gilkeson and Laura and Edith Wood.

M. and M. Building Association.
The Merchants and Mechanics Building Association on last Tuesday evening sold three loans to Byram C. Foster at a premium of ten cents. The first series of the capital stock of the association was declared matured and ordered to be paid. The amount of stock now matured and ready for payment is \$10,000.
Two vacancies in the Board of Directors occurred one by the resignation of Jesse W. Knight, and the other by the death of Captain Lemuel Jarvis. Their places in the board were filled by the election of William C. Peirce and Patrick Barrett.
The following resolutions were adopted concerning the death of Captain Jarvis: Resolved, That in the death of Captain Lemuel Jarvis, who has been a member of this association since its incorporation, and a member of its Board of Directors during the past seven years, we feel that this association has lost an efficient officer, and this community a useful and valued citizen.
Resolved, That these resolutions be engraved upon the minutes of the association, and a copy thereof be transmitted to the family of the deceased.
The real estate of the association on Mill street, now occupied by Frank S. Weik, was sold to McMullen Brothers, plumbers, for \$2600.
The association resolved to change their monthly meeting place and hereafter will meet in the frame building on Radcliffe street, adjoining the Presbyterian Church.

A New Lodge in Town.
Mrs. E. C. Rich, an organizer of the order of Shepherds of Bethlehem, has been in town during the past few days interesting the ladies and gentlemen of this borough in the order she represents. We learn that it is an excellent order, and is said to date its origin from the birth of Christ when the angel appeared to the Shepherds of Bethlehem and announced the birth of our Saviour. It is now to the United States, having been introduced since last year. It has grown very rapidly since that time and numbers among its members a number of very influential people. The degree work and ritualistic work are said to be magnificent. A lodge of this order is now being started in Bristol. The charter fee has been donated to this lodge by the Board of Officers of the Supreme Lodge. Thus all those who join will have no initiation fee to pay, but will be expected to pay 50 or 75 cents each advance on their dues when they join. The dues will be about 10 cents a week. Funeral benefits, \$50. Sick benefits, \$3 a week. Initiation fee after charter closes one dollar. All persons, male or female, between the ages of 18 and 55 years of good moral character, who believe in God as the Supreme Being are eligible to join as benevolent members. Over that age as honorary members. This order is the oldest Christian order in existence, and seeks the support of all religious and moral people. A preliminary meeting to elect officers and arrange for the institution will be held in Washington Hall on Thursday evening, March 4, at 8 p. m. Those interested are cordially invited to be present. Any information regarding the order will be cheerfully given by Mrs. E. A. Wyckoff and Mrs. E. C. Rich.

A Fraternal Gift to Major McKinley.
A handsome and costly diamond badge has been made by a firm of jewelers of Detroit, Mich., to be presented by Postmaster-General Wilson to President-elect McKinley on the evening of March 3, on behalf of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, of which Mr. McKinley is an active member. It is the regulation badge of the fraternity surrounded by sixteen specially selected large blue-white diamonds. The Convention of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, which was held in St. Louis Christmas week, decided to present to Mr. McKinley the fraternity badge, and a special committee was appointed to look after the matter. A delegation of the fraternity will attend the inauguration, when President McKinley will wear the gift of the fraternity.

"Ye Merry Bachelor Club" was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ancker on Wednesday evening, Feb. 24, 1897. The members present were: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ancker, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. W. Bickel, Mr. and Mrs. Pemberton Myster, Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Vanasant, Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Stradling, Miss Alice Lippincott, Mr. Harry Pope, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wetling, Miss Anna Foster, and Mr. Harry Waldard. Prizes were won by Mrs. V. V. Vanasant, and Mr. H. T. W. Bickel. This is the last meeting that Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ancker will attend as they leave shortly for Asbury Park, their future residence.

The Burgess-elect, Benjamin S. Johnson, took the oath of office last Tuesday morning at the Council Chamber, there being present: J. C. Foster, President, and Messrs. Kelly, Scott, Seill, Evans and Messrs. Kelly, E. N. Boos, Esq., administered the oath. After which Mr. Johnson administered the oath to the following newly elected councilmen: Samuel Scott, Thomas Scott, Frank F. Seill, Owen Evans, Frederick Collier, S. W. Smith, Dennis Dugan and Michael McCurry. Nathan H. Moss was not present, but will be sworn in at the organization of the council on the first Monday in April at 10 o'clock, a. m.
The fourth annual complimentary entertainment of Court Onward, Foresters of America, will be held in Washington Hall on the 9th of March.

The borough council of West Chester has purchased a site and will erect at once a new water plant to supply the town. It will cost about \$40,000. The bonded indebtedness of the borough will be \$75,000, or \$85,000 below the amount required by law.

W. C. T. U.
The regular Monthly Business Meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be held next Wednesday afternoon at 3.30 in the Presbyterian Church. A full attendance is hoped for.

Joseph F. Minster, a painter, of 1110 Morris street, fell from a window of the City Hall, Philadelphia, while at work there Tuesday and died within a short time. He was standing on the window frame and missed his footing.

A Lesson from Defeat.
We do not like to refer to unpleasant occurrences, but we find so many Republicans of an enquiring turn of mind who wish to study the effect that the recent borough elections will have upon the immediate future of the local Republican organization that we in turn with them would discuss the problem.
The question which most generally occupies their thoughts is, has the factional feeling which found expression in the defeat of Judge Bannister spent itself only to awaken in the breasts of the Judge's friends and supporters resentments and animosities which at the first opportunity will assert themselves and inaugurate a season of factional strife to the detriment of the Republican organization and success of Republican candidates? We truly trust not, as in such a course we can only see injury to the great organization which we all believe is the best equipped for the conduct of our public business.
If this possibility which has occasioned concern to so many local Republicans can be averted, and we sincerely hope it may, the lesson recently administered to us, viewed from a party standpoint, may not be without some good results. It may impress upon the minds of our party associates two most important facts, the first of which is that the party caucuses are the time and place to ventilate and discuss every shade of party difference, the merits of candidates, and their fitness and availability for the nominations with which their names are coupled; and second, that in a time when the popular mind is so awakened to public questions and party policy, the party business must be conducted and nominations made entirely free from all questionable influences. That these conditions should exist in our party organization we certainly owe not only to ourselves, but to the great masses of the people who have so unanimously trusted it with the conduct of public affairs; and in discharging the great trust, which as a party has come to us, we should feel that the power has been given to us by the people only because they believed we were more capable to govern; they believed we better methods and promote better general conditions than the party which for three years has been so emphatically repudiated by the voters. If we do not however rise up to the popular expectation in the management of our party and public affairs; if we are forced to waste our energies and abilities in factional differences for the selfish control of the organization by individuals; or if we use questionable methods to compass the nomination of favorites, we will soon learn that the same forces that made our party majority so large can just as readily place us in the minority.

The platform of the Republican party is broad and upon it can stand men of all shades of Republican thought looking to the public good. But the result of the recent election for Burgess, in which the election of a most estimable citizen was scorched by Republican votes, ought to conclusively show that there is not much room, especially at the front of the government, for men who are not Republicans, or organization for the promotion of their selfish ends and ambitions. The great mass of our people seem to have imbibed the idea that the Republican organization was not created and perpetuated to register the will of selfish and unscrupulous leaders, but because it afforded a channel where the most enlightened thought, progressive ideas, and most honorable interpretation of our free institutions finally found expression in law.

In the working out of all of this, leaders we must have, but as we interpret the meaning of the recent local elections, these leaders, if they wish to enjoy the public confidence must bear in mind the public good as the only means of perpetuating their personal influence for the day has surely passed when intelligent Republicans will blindly follow the leadership of men whose only aim is party control for private gain, and the employment of any methods which will accomplish this result.

—Wm. C. Ryan, Esq., of Doylestown, has prepared a new set of rules for the governing of the Republican party in Bucks county, which will be submitted at the next meeting of the County committee for consideration, and if thought favorable of by that body, will be presented at the county mass convention to be voted upon. In looking over the proposed rules, which are of greater length and a great deal more explicit than the ones now governing the party, a number of changes are noticed. One of the principal changes called for is to have a primary system for the election of delegates at home to the County convention, to be always held at Doylestown, at a stated date. Each election district to receive one delegate in the convention for every fifty votes or fraction over cast for the lowest man on the Republican ticket at the last general election. The rules provide also that any qualified voter intending to vote the Republican ticket at the next election is entitled to a vote at the party primaries. The county committee has not been called as yet, but it will be done at an early date, when we trust, the section of the rules relating to the primary system of elections will be carefully considered. The system now in vogue in Chester county and the Crawford one in Lancaster county are highly recommended by the citizens of those counties, as well as in others of the State where the same systems prevail. The split in the Republican ranks in Bristol could never have happened at the primaries of the borough election if the Crawford system were in use here at the time, it being impossible to have a vote on first choice and the second too. For the future harmony in our party this new rules should be well considered when the new rules are being adopted.

The J's in the McKinley Cabinet.
The J's, comments the New York Sun, have it by a large majority in the Cabinet of President McKinley, as thus far arranged: J. Sherman in Secretary of State; J. D. Long is Secretary of the Treasury; J. D. Long is Secretary of the Navy; J. McKenna is Secretary of the Interior; J. A. Gary is Postmaster General; J. J. McCook, a double J, is Attorney General; and J. H. Wilson is Secretary of Agriculture.

In fact, the only non-J is R. A. Alger, Secretary of War, and his surname, by the way, should be rendered with the g soft, or like j.

A Philadelphia company is negotiating with the Package Board of Trade for a location in that borough of a hosiery factory.

NEW TROLLEY COMPANY.
YARDLEY, PA., February 20, 1897.
The East Penn Traction Company has elected the following officers and directors: A. S. Caldwell, Yardley, Pa., President; Walter R. Johnson, Hulmeville, Pa., Vice President; J. W. Bickel, 1845 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Secretary; and E. W. Meloney, Yardley, Pa., Assistant General Manager. John T. Fish, Fallington, Pa.; T. Howard Atkinson, Buckingham, Pa.; W. R. Andrews, (Secretary Republican State Committee), George D. Armstrong, Robert E. Flewe, Dr. S. Edmund Long, Walter Stone, William C. Wilson, David Haller Brown and Theo. T. Hansen, Philadelphia, Directors.
The company has filed and recorded the following lines and extensions:
Beginning at Broad Street, Philadelphia, and Nicotown Lane, thence on Nicotown Lane to Frankford, thence on Mechanicsville, Byberry Corners, Hulmeville, Fallington, Morrisville and Trenton, also from Nicotown to Neshaunim Falls, Langhorne, Oxford Valley and Fallington.
Also from Nicotown to Somerton, Poerterville, Holt and Newtown.
Also from Nicotown Lane, Philadelphia, to Fox Chase, Meadowbrook, Huntingdonville, Richborough and from Frankford to Germantown, over the Olney Road and also from Nicotown to Germantown, over the Olney Road and also from Nicotown to Chester Hill, also from Nicotown to West Street over the Lineclink Turnpike and Elder Hill, Fitzwater, Dresherstown, Jarretstown, Maplewood, Spring House, Montgomery Square, Montgomeryville, Colmar, Hatfield, Soudertown, Sellersville, Wunkertown, Coopersburg, Centerville, South Bethlehem and Bethlehem and by connection to Allentown and Reading and to Easton, with branches to Ambler, North Wales, Lansdale and Doylestown.

Also from Philadelphia to Willow Grove, Hahob, Hartsville to Doylestown.
Also from Trenton to Morrisville to Yardley to Newtown, Wrightstown, Pineville and Covertville, with branches to New Hope, Lambertville and to Doylestown.
These lines connect the principal portions of Bucks county with its 60,000 population and the city of Trenton, N. J., with 70,000 people and portions of Montgomery, Lehigh and Northampton counties with Philadelphia and intersect with or cross practically all the street car lines of that city. They cover a territory 20 to 30 miles wide and 50 miles long embracing the best populated and most fertile section of the country tributary to Philadelphia and will afford greatly needed facilities of travel to this important district, tributary to that city. The Company's lines, extending to South Bethlehem will also bring Bethlehem, Allentown and Easton in connection with Philadelphia by trolley.

The company expects to begin operations in the spring and the first line to be constructed will probably be between Trenton and Philadelphia and between Trenton, Morrisville, Yardley, Newtown and Doylestown. The remainder of the system will be built as fast as practicable but the company will build in small sections between leading points and put each division in operation as fast as completed. A large portion of the rights of way has been secured and the franchises are now being applied for in the boroughs. The company has been engaged upon securing its lines and laying the foundation for its operations for several months preparatory to active work and some of the leading men of the section through which the road will run, and of the city of Philadelphia, are interested in the enterprise, nearly one hundred of the leading citizens of Bucks county are among its incorporators.

The people along the line show great interest in the enterprise and are subscribing to the stock of the company were given the opportunity.
The capital stock of the company is \$850,000 in shares of \$50 each and will probably be increased to \$1,000,000 at an early date and more as the demands of the enterprise may require; bonds will only be issued for the actual cost of the construction, probably not exceeding \$15,000 per mile, which is much less than the average electric railways, but the great reduction in the cost of material and labor will enable the company to build cheaply. Both the public roads and private rights of way will be used and property owners show a disposition to contribute the latter for the sake of securing the road.
Mr. E. W. Meloney of the Provident Electric Light and Power Company has been appointed Assistant General Manager of the company with headquarters at Yardley, Pa., and placed in charge of its practical operations.

Delegate Elections.
It appears to be generally conceded in this part of the county that the Republican mass meetings for the formation of county tickets, and the selection of delegates to the State Convention, should give way to the more approved method of choosing delegates to represent the people, to be appointed among the districts according to the size of the Republican vote. While the great majority of Republicans hereabouts are agreed this far, the proposition to adopt the Chester county plan, or the Crawford county plan, or any other plan, has each its advocates, while a considerable and perhaps the larger number are in favor of simply electing delegates, without going into any further departure from the rules as they at present exist. There is a master if new rules are to be adopted, that should be carefully provided for. That is to make so definite that there need be no occasion for dispute the rules describing those who are entitled to participate in the primaries. There should be no uncertainty about that. And there should also be a protection shown, that would absolutely keep out those who belonged to any other party until satisfactory evidence is produced that their affiliations have been changed. What the Republicans of Bristol and of Bucks county desire to see are honest primaries and fair conventions.

AN EVENING WITH HERMIONE COMPANY.
Washington's birthday, the 22nd, was fittingly celebrated by the Hermione Company, No. 10, U. R. K. of P., by holding their annual inspection and installation of officers on that date. Major A. Weir Gilkeson had been appointed Assistant Inspector General for No. 10 of Bristol, as also for No. 11 of Philadelphia, and performed the duties in a thorough manner. The ceremonies were held in the Assembly Room of Pythian Hall, second floor, and the lady friends and relatives of the Sir Knights were there to lend beauty and grace to the occasion. After inspection an exhibition drill was given by the Company and this was followed by installation of officers. The following were the ones installed: Captain, W. V. Leach; 1st Lieutenant, L. C. Wetling; 2nd Lieutenant, Charles A. Wilson; Recorder, H. Chambers; Treasurer, John C. Howell; Guard, H. T. W. Bickel; Sentinel, W. H. Hall, Jr. Before adjournment to the lower floor Major Gilkeson called upon Past 2nd Lieutenant Neely and in well chosen words complimented him upon the good record he had made as an officer. He also stated that it had been the intention of his comrades to bestow upon him a jewel of honor for his two years attendance and service, but that from some unknown delay at Headquarters it had not yet arrived. Adjoining to the concert room on the first floor, a very pleasant entertainment was given. The program was full of surprises and was rather an unusual one. After a piano solo by Miss Bovan, which was well rendered, Lieutenant Wetling, chairman of the evening, announced an address by Recorder Chambers, which proved to be some remarks upon the services of Capt. Leach to the Company and a presentation of a life-size crayon portrait of the captain, handsomely framed, given by the officers to the members, to be hung in the armory. The captain who was evidently taken by surprise replied in a few well chosen words. Next on the program was a solo, "Hermione," by Rev. E. A. Rook, Chaplain 3rd Regiment. This was an original composition by himself, dedicated to the company and when sung by Chaplain Rook, who has a fine voice, was beautifully rendered. This was surprise No. 2. After the reading of an amusing story by Miss Hall, and a solo by Miss Dreisford, Chaplain Rook was announced for an address. He intimated that he was to speak on "Art" and after a number of bright and witty remarks in which he took an opportunity to score Major Gilkeson, another essay was placed upon the platform and Major Gilkeson's portrait was placed beside that of Capt. Leach. This was surprise No. 3. Surprise No. 4 came a little later when in an address by Major Gilkeson in which he paid an address by Chaplain Rook with interest, another portrait was placed beside the others, Chaplain Rook's this time. This fairly brought down the house. After the exercises the visitors were invited to the refreshment tables. Refreshments were following by singing, social conversation, cards, etc.

Safe Guards Around the Primaries.
A correspondent of the Conshohocken Recorder advances a scheme, which has many good features, as a substitute for the usual method of conducting primary elections. He says: Positively prohibited by law the primary as now exists, and in its stead provide for a general primary election, to be conducted subconsciously, and the November election is now conducted, as the November election of the same election officials, and to be held, say three or four weeks in advance of the November election. Advance the dates of registration by three or four weeks, so that the registry lists may be completed in time for use at the general primary election, and permit only duly registered voters to participate in the primary. Let each man vote for whom he pleases as his candidate for each office, and as he deposits his vote, let the officials endorse on it how it is to be canvassed—i. e., as the Republican or Democratic ballot. When the ballots are counted let them be canvassed under their respective endorsements and provide that the person receiving the highest number of votes in the Republican canvass shall be the Republican candidate, and so on, through the various parties or divisions of parties. If the total number of votes cast under the canvass of any party or faction is insufficient to entitle such party or faction to file nominations under the law as it now stands, ignore such party or faction on the official ballot for the November election. The adherents of that particular political faith will then have had a chance to stand up and be counted, and if they are too few to have any appreciable effect on the result, let them continue their campaign of education and wait till next time. The same will be true of the independents inside the party lines; if they are outvoted in the primary and the exponent of some other phase of the party faith wins the nomination, let those who did not vote for him in the primary choose whether they will support him in the November election or vote for his adversary. In this way party loyalty will be preserved, as far as it may be done legitimately, and men will only vote against the nominee from strong, controlling reasons, and at the same time opportunity will be given, first, for a square test of strength between the various factions of the party, and second, for the deliberate choice between the nominee of a faction and the nominee of one's political adversary.

A valuable Jersey cow belonging to Henry W. Watson, Esq., of Langhorne, was killed on Friday afternoon last by order of the State authorities, she having been found to be suffering with tuberculosis.

—March 3d will be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, Palm Sunday falls on April 11, Good Friday, April 16, and Easter on April 18.

—Women in Canada will soon practice law as barristers. The Ontario Law School some time ago passed rules to this effect, with the following regulations as to dress: They must be bareheaded, wear black gowns over a black dress and white collars and cuffs.

BREEDING KANSAS.
John C. Stuckert, Esq., returned last Friday from a business trip through the middle West and in Eastern Kansas in particular, where he was looking after some property in Linu county for a client. After leaving St. Louis, Mo., he went west by the Missouri Pacific for about three hundred and twenty-five miles, then changed at a small place called Butler in Missouri, to a branch road that runs into Central Kansas. When asked by a Gazette representative what his impressions of the Populists there were, Mr. Stuckert said:

The unfavorable condition of the agricultural interest was at once noticeable immediately upon crossing the Mississippi river, and the further west I got the poorer the farming community appears to be. It is an extremely rare thing to see upon the farms of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas a farm house more than one story in height. The farm houses are all frame, and the majority of them appear to be about 14x28 feet, set right down upon the prairie without any cellar underneath, containing about two rooms, some only one. Another peculiarity about these buildings is that they are, seldom, if ever, painted or whitewashed, and are allowed to assume the dingy, forlorn appearance that buildings under these conditions must naturally assume.

There is no doubt about the extreme poverty of the farming classes of this section of our country, and an inquiry into the prices which they obtain for their produce, shows why this condition prevails. The great crop raised in this section is corn, and its selling price is from ten to fourteen cents a bushel. Some oats are also raised as well as some wheat. Oats bring from seven to ten cents a bushel, and until the famine in India raised the price of wheat the market price of this cereal was from forty-two to forty-eight cents.

All these farms have mortgages upon them drawing interest at the rate of from ten to twelve per cent. per annum. These Western States have been ambitious in the erection of expensive public buildings which have invariably been built upon borrowed capital also at a high rate of interest, which makes the tax rate on the valuation of the land extremely high. So that by extremely low prices of produce, the enormously high rates of interest upon their borrowed capital, and high taxation, there is nothing in the future for the Western farmer but insolvency.

The scarcity of money in the commercial transactions of the West, I am now speaking of the country not of the large cities, is extremely noticeable, and so far as I could observe, nearly all of the business was conducted upon the exchange system by which one commodity at the prices agreed upon was given in exchange for another commodity also at a price agreed upon. This, my opinion is, has done more to retard the progress of the West than any other single factor. I doubt that all business in that locality suffers for the want of money, and the Westerner's patience for this condition of affairs is the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the rate of sixteen to one. I believe that Kansas has more politicians to the square mile than any State in the Union. About every man I met out there as soon as I was introduced to him commenced to shoot off his particular views upon the political situation and what in his opinion would again bring about good times. The burden of every man's song was that there was not money enough in the country in circulation and that the times would never be any better until we had free silver, and the more the better.

The people of the East have a very incorrect conception of the intense feeling, I might say the bitter feeling, of the Western people upon this subject, and I predict that unless the administration of Mr. McKinley is extremely prosperous this issue must again be met, if the temperament of the West and the South remain the same as I found them, with an excellent prospect of the free silver advocates coming out victorious in the next contest.

I made my first acquaintance with the Populists in Kansas. They appear to be as thick there as grasshoppers. At our last National election they carried the State by a fusion with the Democrats, the contract being that the Democrats should have the presidential electors and the Populists should have all the State and local offices. The result is that the State in all its departments is in the absolute control of the Populist party, and they have been able to enact legislation that renders it almost impossible for the Eastern capitalist who has loaned them his money in good faith to recover it back again.

The homestead exemption laws are so framed that it is almost idle to attempt to seize the debtor's personal property in satisfaction of a claim, and in his foreclosure proceedings against real estate, a stay of eighteen months is allowed the debtor, which, together with a period of seven months more required to run the foreclosure proceedings through the courts, gives the debtor more than two years after defaulting the payment of interest, during which without the payment of interest or taxes, he can gather the products un molested from the mortgaged premises.

In many cases there has been the greatest fraud practiced upon the Eastern capitalist in the placing of these Kansas mortgages. Under the Federal laws the settler could preempt the government lands at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre provided he placed some kinds of improvements upon the property and made it his residence. In numerous instances these settlers would construct what are called dug outs, which was done by digging a ditch and forming it into blocks and allowing them to dry in the sun, then digging a hole in the sand and placing these clay bricks over it in the shape of a big round hive and calling it a house. In other cases a frame shanty was put up costing from \$150 to \$200, and after living in the house for a period of six months the settler was entitled to a patent to the land at the regular price. The next to do was to make application to one of the numerous mortgage companies, trust and investment companies, of which the States of Kansas and Missouri are full. These companies would consensually send an agent to inspect the premises upon which a loan was solicited, who in glowing terms would set forth a number of records of value-

able timber land (cottonwood trees) and of rich prairie land, placing a valuation upon the same usually two or three times the amount of the loan desired. But in all cases nearly the loan itself was for a sum equal to and in many instances in excess of all the property cost the settler. A mortgage was then taken by one of these companies for the amount of the loan requested and placed upon record, then the company hunted around for some Eastern capitalist to bite at the tempting inducement of twelve per cent. interest. After a while some poor fellow was taken in, then for the first time the settler received his money, the government preemption was paid and the investment company received their commission, and in cases when the loan exceeded the cost of the land and the improvements, and the settler found himself in possession of three or four hundred dollars ready money he pulled up stakes and went further west and tried it over again. When these mortgages were assigned by the investment companies to the Eastern capitalists they guaranteed the payment of the principal, interest and costs of foreclosure if such proceedings were necessary, but as they were unscrupulous, corporations with no assets of much value, they very occasionally failed, and when the eastern capitalist came to look up his security he generally found that he had a piece of prairie land fifteen hundred miles away from home, with no improvements upon it of any value which nobody wanted to buy.

The system of farming pursued in the West is certainly pernicious and is one which must inevitably in a comparatively short time, bring the soil to such an impoverished state that no crops will grow upon it with any profit. I saw farms after farms that for fully consecutive years, ever since it was reduced to cultivation, have been cropped with corn. During all this time there has been no variation or change in the cereal produced and the land is not permitted to have any rest. Numbers of the farmers with whom I conversed, acknowledging that this was a wasteful system so extensive to the soil that where their farms originally produced one hundred bushels of corn to the acre, many of them now would scarcely yield forty bushels to the acre.

Kansas is presumably a prohibition state, and yet numbers of her citizen with whom I conversed assured me that more intoxicating liquors were now consumed within her limits than formerly under the license system. In negotiating from the train at Mount City the very first sight that attracted my attention was eight or ten beer kegs piled up at the railway station awaiting transportation, I inquired of a bystander what these kegs contained and he informed me with a grin that they were filled with "Kansas medicine." Subsequently on speaking with numbers of the leading citizens of Mount City upon this subject, they all deplored without exception, the prohibition feature of their laws and said that they sincerely hoped the state would soon get back again to the license system. I saw men in an intoxicated condition upon their public streets, and I was informed that in the late times of the territorial government there was generally understood that intoxicating liquors could be freely obtained.

When prosecutions under the prohibitory laws were instituted in the courts the State invariably failed to secure a conviction because the jury just flatly refused to convict, no matter what evidence was produced, and in one or two of the principal cities of the State intoxicating liquors are openly sold behind public bars to anyone who asks for it, the offender simply paying a fine for violating the law, which he can readily afford to do out of the profit of the business. The Kansas Legislature was in session at Topeka while I was in the State and the question of re-submission of the license system was brought to a vote in the lower house and carried by a considerable majority, but failed to secure the two-thirds majority required by the constitution, but it seemed to be the universal opinion among the citizens that in a year or two from now Kansas would have a license law.

I cannot speak too warmly of the kind-hearted, friendly welcome without any exception whatever, extended to me by all the Kansans with whom I became acquainted. They seemed to make every effort at their command to make my stay with them pleasant and agreeable, and I shall always cherish with the most pleasant recollections the open-hearted hospitality that I received at their hands.

A Complete Establishment.
Johnson Brothers, the popular clothiers at the corner of Mill and Wood streets, are now ready for the Fall and Winter trade. They can dress a man from head to toe in the best style and for a small amount of cash. Their Clothing, Hats, Caps, Underwear, Hosiery, Shoes and Neckwear, are all of the latest styles and best materials. They have suits from \$5 to \$20, honest goods and well made. Hats, from 40 cts. to \$3.00. Underwear from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per suit; and shoes, well made, neat, strong and substantial, at various prices. For reliable goods, bought from standard houses, go to Johnson Brothers. They keep no auction trash upon their premises.

—Karang Blended Java. All Grocers. Beautiful and useful presents.

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Dr. J. D. Thomas, specialist in the painless extraction of teeth with nitrous oxide gas, has removed from 912 to 1122 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

—Golden Java Tea—all grocers—beautiful and useful presents.

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March winds consume coal very fast, therefore it is wise to buy the best. This you will find at the old Bath street yard which is always well stocked by W. F. Leedom, 629 1/2 Bath street.

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For Rent.
Stable to let, accommodates three horses and three wagons. \$2.60 per month. W. F. Leedom, 629 1/2 Bath street.

—Karang Blended Java. All Grocers. Beautiful and useful presents.

—Leighton has a new \$22,000 public school building.

THE FIRST CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.
It was my great privilege to attend five sessions of the Congress of Mothers at Washington last week. It was a glowing success and has been established as a permanent organization to meet once a year. Next year it will meet at Washington and then every alternate year at the Capital. The intervening years it will be held in different cities throughout the Union.

This is the first National Congress of Mothers ever held in this or any other country and the attendance and enthusiasm surpassed the most sanguine expectations. The quarters secured for the Congress, (the Banquet Hall of the Arlington Hotel), were entirely inadequate for the purpose, and even one of the largest churches could not hold all those desirous of attending.

I was not present the opening day, but I know it must have been very enjoyable. Mrs. Theo. W. Birney, the president, made an address of welcome which must have been well worth hearing. Mrs. Birney was all hearts with her warm wayward business like manner of conducting affairs.

Thursday morning, Mrs. Hallington Booth opened the Congress. She gave a brief description of her work among the boys in the prisons of New York. She said:—"When all those boys call me 'Mother' I feel as though I ought to be about seventy and have white hair. And when I think I am the only person many of the boys have ever called mother, it makes my heart ache."

Mrs. Louise Hogan, of Philadelphia, gave a paper on districts in which she advocated nutritious food profitably and daintily served. She said: "I have seen too often children are put away where to eat their meals, when a faithful child might be soothed by a dainty table and cheerful dining room."

Mrs. Jennette Miller also spoke of the necessity of good food. After a thorough study she has found that bad nutrition leads to a desire for stimulants, those eating wholesome food well prepared have no active desire for spirits in any form, while those of the lower class who eat badly prepared food hence so much drunkenness. She said:—"I could cure two-thirds of our criminals by giving them good food and work. Crime is a disease and should be treated as such."

Mrs. Helen Gardner, that intense and earnest little woman, read a powerful paper on "The Moral Responsibility of Woman in Herodity." She says there are 700,000 defective in our country, the result of ignorance and uncontrollable passion. Our standing army is only 25,000; these for our protection, the others for our destruction.

Mrs. Frances Newton, of Chicago, spoke on "The Mothers' Greatest Need," which she considers to be cooperation between husband and wife in the care and education of their children.

Mrs. Mackenzie, of Philadelphia, spoke of "Play Grounds" and the great need of them in cities, she also spoke of the success of those in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Dr. G. Stanley Hall, of Worcester, gave some very interesting results of Scientific Child Study.

Mrs. Julia King, of the Emerson School of Oratory, Boston, read a paper on Physical Culture and also recited a number of poems by special request. It was most restful to listen to Miss King for her voice was well modulated and her bearing regal.

Dr. Hervey, of New York, spoke on Stories; the need and importance of good stories. He said:—"There is too much Motherhood here, I want some Fatherhood. If mother has a patent on a story and it is called 'Mother's Story,' I think father should have a copyright on one. Fathers should be allowed to make one of the children, they should put them to bed, or dress them, or even give them a bath at least once a week."

The need of Nature Study in the home, the great need of cooperation between mothers and teachers, of mother's clubs and many other subjects were discussed, chief among them that the kindergarten principle is the only true principle of education. It was pleasing to note the number of colored women at the congress. Mrs. Harper, of Philadelphia, spoke eloquently, and a number of delegates from different clubs spoke of their work.

Dr. Hervey was not the only one to speak for fatherhood, a young man sent as delegate from

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